

Public Notice

Public Notice No. 04-30

Date: June 28, 2004

Nashville District

Application No. 200300914

Please address all comments to: Regulatory Branch, 3701 Bell Road, Nashville, TN 37214-2660

SUBJECT: Proposed Commercial Recreation Complex and Marina at Mile 0.5, Left Bank, Tellico River, in Monroe County, Tennessee

TO ALL CONCERNED: The application described below has been submitted for a Department of the Army Permit pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 USC 403) and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1344). The bank stabilization and boat launching ramp activities included in this application have been previously authorized for purposes of Section 10 and Section 404 by existing Nationwide Permits 13 and 36, respectively, [January 15, 2002, Federal Register, Issuance of Nationwide Permits; Notice (67 FR 2020)].

APPLICANT: Eastern Band Cherokee Indians

88 Council House Loop

P.O. Box 455

Cherokee, North Carolina 28719

LOCATION: Between Mile 0.2 and 1.0, left bank, Tellico River (Tellico Lake), near Vonore, in Monroe County, Tennessee, USGS Vonore-TN 7.5 Minute Series Quadrangle Map, Lat 35° 36' 07", Long 84° 12' 58". See Exhibits A-C.

DESCRIPTION: The Eastern Band Cherokee Indians (EBCI) proposes the construction of the Seguoyah Lodge and Lake Resort, a commercial/recreation complex, on approximately 40 acres of land at the subject location. Development would include construction of a 160-room lodge, a 140-room hotel, 108 quadruplex housing units, 46 shore cabins, 137 recreational-vehicle camp lots with a 20' wide by 50' long reinforced concrete boat launching ramp, 40,000 square feet of retail and restaurant space, kayak, canoe, and swimming center with fixed docks, and 785 parking spaces. In addition, EBCI proposes construction of a 100 double-slip marina and stabilization of 2,500' of eroding shoreline with riprap. The marina would consist of seven floating docks of varied lengths, a 12'x100' fuel dock, and a 12'x200' breakwater (Dock 1). Docks 2-4 would measure 86' in width while Docks 5-7 measure 66' in width. The main shoreline walkway, middle walks, and slip fingers would measure 8', 6', and 4', respectively. Riprap would be installed between Elevation (El) 820 and 804. A total of 631 cubic yards of riprap would be installed below Tellico Lake's normal summer pool (El. 813.0). The commercial/recreation complex would be phased development from 2004 to 2008.

Operation of the Seguovah Lodge and Lake Resort is intended to generate revenue to support the continued operation and public education programs of the Sequoyah Birthplace Museum located on Highway 360 across from Fort Loudoun State Park. The proposed resort is projected to create about 100 near term and 500 long-term jobs. Other public benefits include improved fishing opportunities with the construction of a new public fishing pier and parking on a parcel immediately north of Highway 360 on the left descending bank of the Tellico River. The new fishing pier would be constructed of pressure-treated wood and measure 8' wide by 150' long (parallel to the shoreline) with a 5' wide by 60' long access walkway.

Plans of the proposed work are attached to this notice (Exhibits D-K).

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts including cumulative impacts of the activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the work must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the work will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shore erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. A permit will be granted unless the District Engineer determines that it would be contrary to the public interest.

The Corps of Engineers (CE) is soliciting comments from the public; federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the CE to determine whether to issue, modify, condition, or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

TVA has prepared a draft EA to better understand the potential impacts of the proposed land use request and Section 26a permit application. The CE is a cooperating agency in this EA. The EA will be finalized before a final decision concerning issuance or denial of the requested Department of the Army Permit.

Seven recorded archaeological sites have been previously documented on the property (40MR266, 40MR562-567). However, none have been determined eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). A recent archaeological survey of the property did not identify the presence of any new cultural resources. TVA has consulted with the office of the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) concerning this finding. By letter dated April 17, 2002, the SHPO concurred that no archaeological resources eligible for listing in the NRHP occurred within the project area. This review constitutes the full extent of cultural resources investigations unless comment to this notice is received documenting that significant sites or properties exist which may be affected by this work, or that adequately documents that a potential exists for the location of significant sites or properties within the permit area. Copies of this notice are being sent to the SHPO.

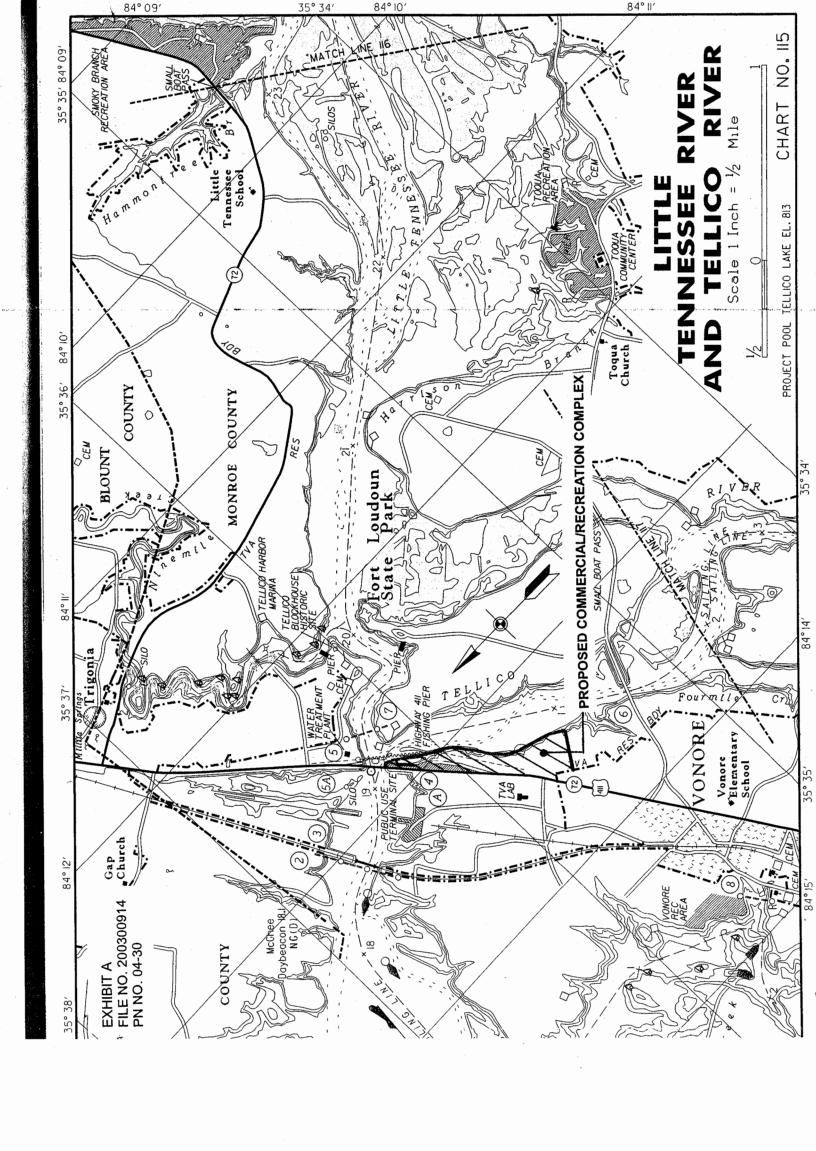
Based on available information, the proposed work will not destroy or endanger any federally-listed threatened or endangered species or their critical habitats, as identified under the Endangered Species Act. Therefore, we have reached a no effect determination, and initiation of formal consultation procedures with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is not planned at this time.

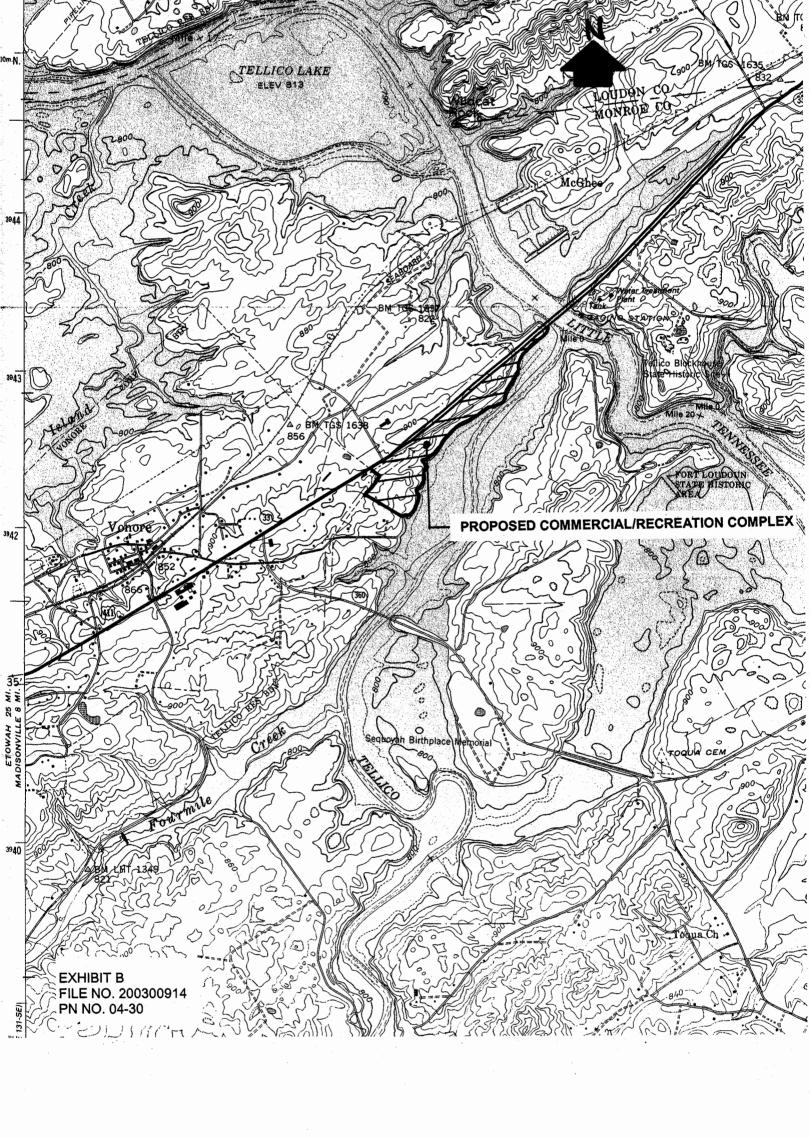
Other federal, state, and/or local approvals required for the proposed work are as follows:

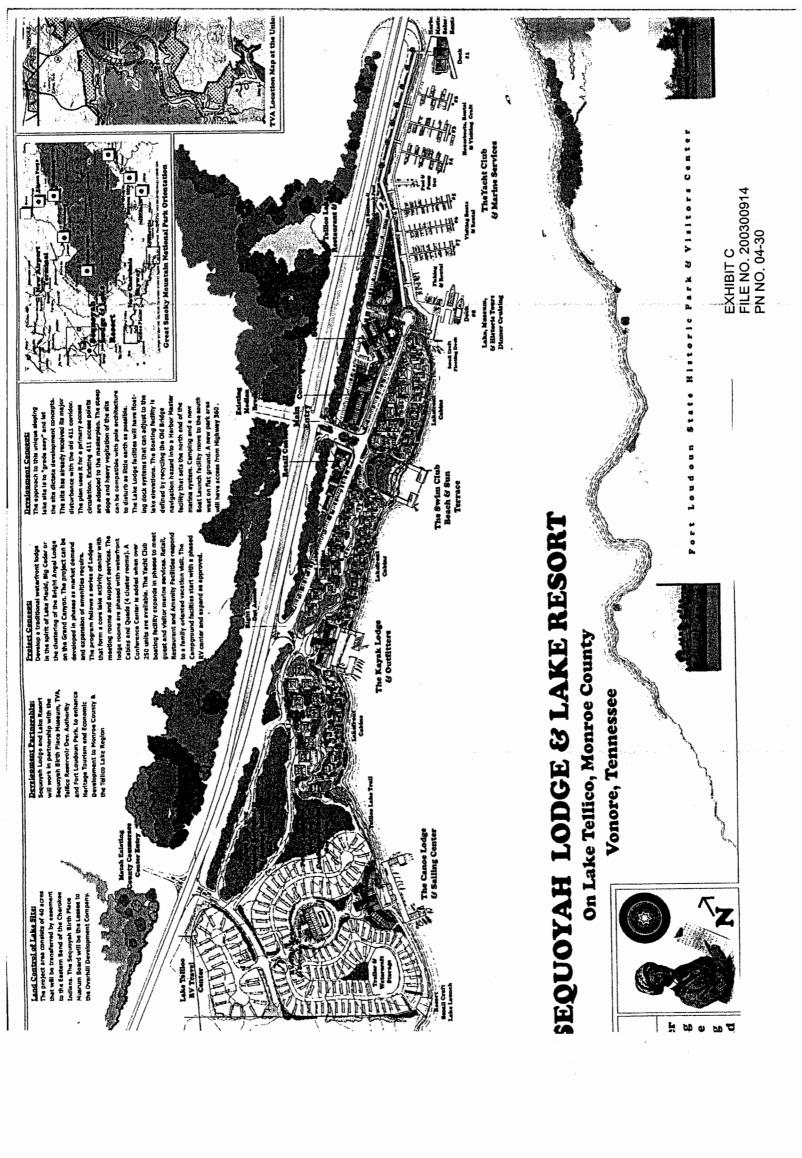
- a. TVA approval under Section 26a of the TVA Act. In addition to other provisions of its 26a approval, TVA would require the applicant to employ best management practices to control erosion and sedimentation, as necessary, to prevent adverse aquatic impacts. Finally, TVA must consider EBCI's application for conveyance of approximately 40 acres of Tellico Reservoir TVA public lands for the commercial recreation complex use.
- b. The proposed bank stabilization and boat launching ramp activities must comply with the terms and conditions of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation's (TDEC) General Permits for these activities established under the requirements of the Tennessee Water Quality Control Act of 1977 (T.C.A. § 69-3-101 et seq).

Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

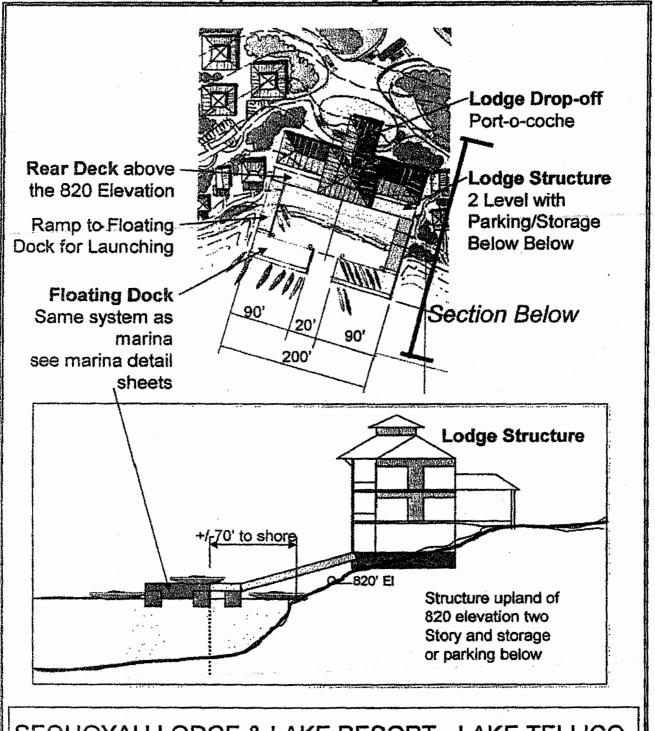
Written statements received in this office on or before July 28, 2004, will become a part of the record and will be considered in the determination. Any response to this notice should be directed to the Regulatory Branch, Attn: J. Ruben Hernandez, at the above address, telephone (615) 369-7519.







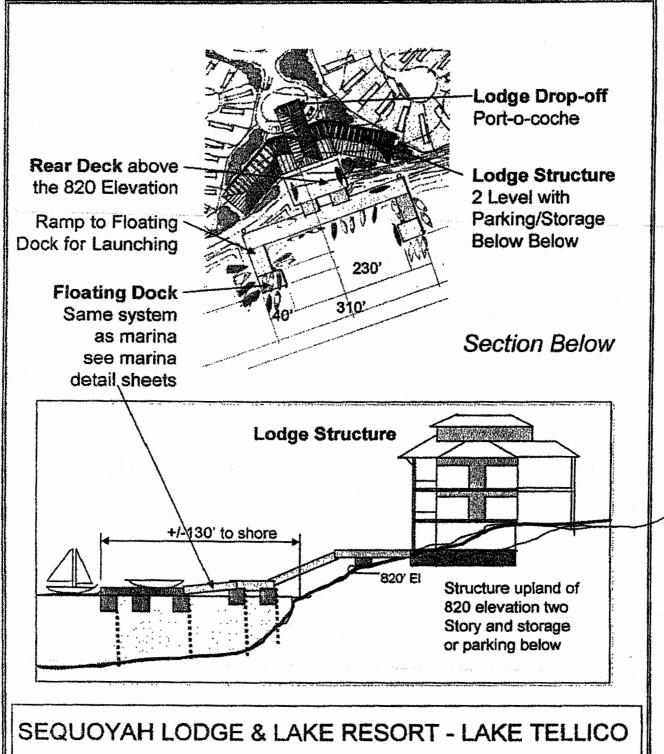
Description of Kayak Center



SEQUOYAH LODGE & LAKE RESORT - LAKE TELLICO
A project of the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians
& The Overhill Development Company

EXHIBIT D FILE NO. 200300914 PN NO. 04-30

Description of Canoe/Sail Center



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Description of Swim Center **Primary Access** Road Sun Terrace Area with lounge and tables **Sunning Terrace** Multi-Level with Pavers, Grass and Ramp to Floating Retaining Wall Dock for Protected Swim Area Beach Fill Area Floating Dock 65' In Existing Swale Same system as 70' marina 65' see marina detail 200' sheets Section Below Sun Terrace Fill & Shape **Beach Sand Fill As Needed** +/-110' to shore Earthen Structure upland of 820 elevation With Sand Fill

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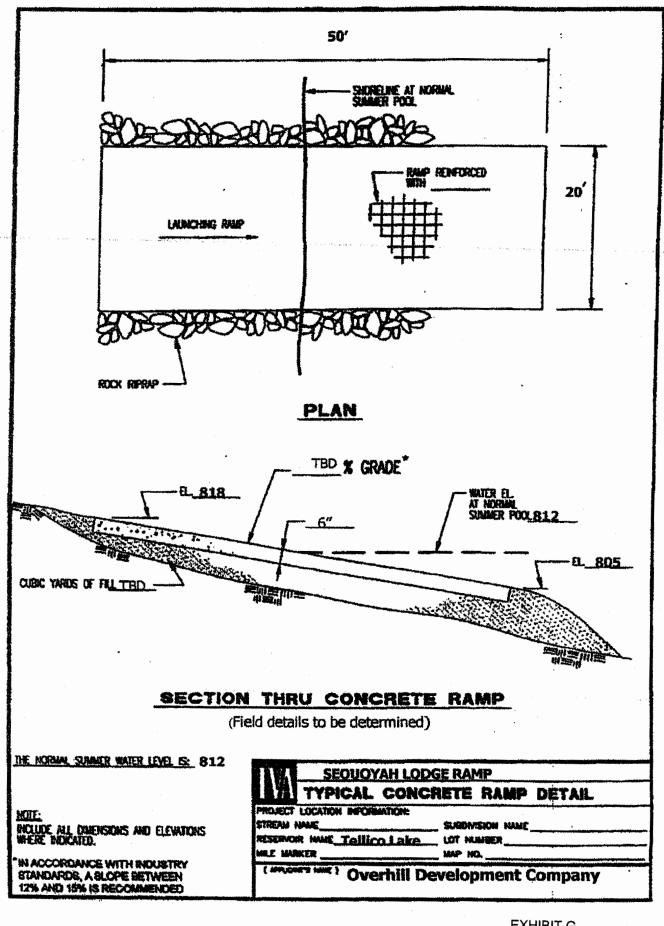


EXHIBIT G FILE NO. 200300914 PN NO. 04-30

EXHIBIT H FILE NO. 200300914 PN NO. 04-30

Description of Fuel and Pump-out Facilities

Lift Station

Sized by future
wastewater design
for the entire project
Site sewer will flow by
gravity and force main
to the station- Marina
pump-outwill be by floating
tank and pump

Elevated Fuel Tank

To meet Tenn DOT and TVA Standards -Sized to service rental and transient demand All materials and connections will meet fuel facility safety standards

Highway 411

Gravity and force main feed to Lift Station flow will go to Vonore Facility

Access

Cul de Sac area
will provide fuel truck
and sewer service access

Floating Fuel and

and Fuel tank

Floating Pump-out

upland Lift Station

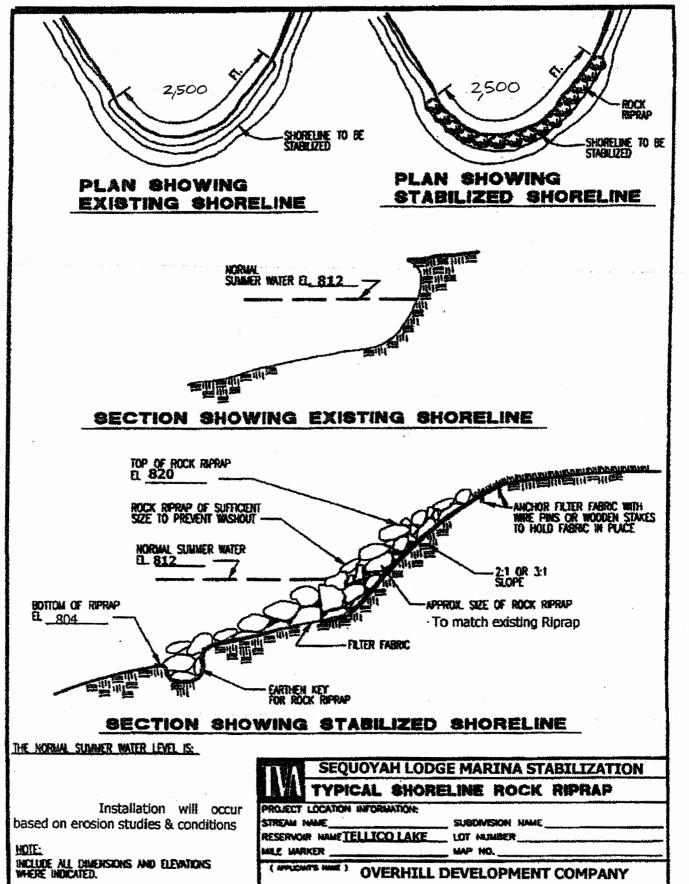
and fuel flex lines to

Floating Fuel and Pump out area Subject to Final Dock Design

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EXHIBIT I FILE NO. 200300914 PN NO. 04-30



OPPLENT COPPANT

EXHIBIT J FILE NO. 200300914 PN NO. 04-30

